

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1-17 remain in the application. Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 9, and 12 have been amended. No claims have been added or canceled.

Oath/Declaration

The Examiner stated that the Declaration of February 9, 2004 did not have the inventors' signature and was not dated. In response, Applicant notes that the Applicant filed a "Response to Notice Missing Parts", mailed June 15, 2004, in which signed and dated declarations by the inventors was submitted.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claim 3 as containing informalities. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 3, as amended, corrects the informality. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the removal of the claim objection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Applicant's claim 12 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 15-24, as amended, satisfy the indefinite requirement. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the removal of the second paragraph 112 rejections.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Applicant's claims 1, 3-12, and 15-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over the Admitted Prior Art and Ebrahim, U.S. Patent No. 6,154,777.

Ebrahim discloses a context dependent, multiple binding name resolution system (Ebrahim, Abstract). Name resolution is translating a host name to a host Internet Protocol (IP) address (Ebrahim, Col. 3, lines 19-23 and Col. 3, lines 47-65). Ebrahim discloses using additional contextual information associated with the request to do the name resolution. Examples of contextual information used are geographical or point-of-origin or sender, domain name of sender, quality of service requested by user, time of day/time zone, load on receiver, etc. (Ebrahim, Fig. 3, Col. 5, lines 23-50).

Applicant respectfully submits that the Admitted Prior Art and Ebrahim do not teach or suggest Applicant's claims. The Examiner admits that the Admitted Prior Art does not disclose "a multiple binding unit coupled to a packet analyzer to select one of the contexts based on access header table information." In claims 1, 3-12, and 15-17, as amended, Applicant claims a context "that operates as a virtual router in one network element." Because Ebrahim defines context as type of information used to make name resolution decisions, Ebrahim cannot teach or suggest "a multiple binding unit coupled to a packet analyzer to select one of the contexts based on access header table information" with a context "that operates as a virtual router in one network element." as claimed.

For example, claim 1, as amended requires "performing authentication, authorization and accounting for a subscriber desiring to connect to a plurality of services on different contexts; establishing bindings to a plurality of contexts for said subscriber based on said performing, wherein each of the plurality of contexts operates as a virtual

router in one network element; ... selecting one of said plurality of contexts based on at least certain of the accessed header information...”.

In addition, claim 3, as amended, requires “a virtual circuit unit to receive a plurality of traffic packets from a subscriber, wherein bindings to a plurality of contexts in the network element have been established for the subscriber, and wherein each of the plurality of contexts operates as a virtual router in the network element; a packet analyzer within the virtual circuit unit to access at least certain header information from each one of said plurality of traffic packets; a multiple binding unit coupled to said packet analyzer to select one of the plurality of contexts for each one of said plurality of traffic packets based on accessed header information, and to communicate each one of said plurality traffic packets to the selected one of said plurality of contexts.”

Furthermore, claim 4, as amended requires “... a virtual circuit unit in said network element coupled to said layer 2 demultiplexer unit to perform an authentication, authorization and accounting procedure and to establish bindings to a plurality of contexts for said subscribers, wherein each of the plurality of contexts operates as a virtual router in the network element; a packet analyzer in said virtual circuit unit to access at least certain header information from said traffic packets; a plurality of contexts in said network element coupled to said virtual circuit unit; and a multiple binding unit in said virtual circuit unit coupled to said packet analyzer to select one of said set of one or more contexts based on at least certain accessed header information and to communicate said traffic packets to the selected context.”

Claims 5 and 6, as amended, require “receiving a plurality of traffic packets from a subscriber, wherein bindings to a plurality of contexts in the network element have been established for the subscriber, and wherein each of the plurality of contexts operates as a

virtual router in a network element; accessing at least certain header information from each one of said plurality of traffic packets; selecting different ones of the plurality of contexts for different ones of said plurality of traffic packets based on said accessing; and communicating each one of said plurality traffic packets to the selected context for each one of said plurality of contexts.”

Claim 8, as amended, requires “accessing at least certain header information from each one of a plurality of traffic packets; and associating different header information values to different contexts based on said accessing wherein each of the different contexts operates as a virtual router in a network element.”

Claim 9, as amended, requires “receiving traffic packets from a subscriber that have differing header information, wherein bindings to a plurality of contexts in the network element have been established for the subscriber wherein each of the plurality of contexts operates as a virtual router in a network element; selecting different ones of said plurality of contexts for different ones of said traffic packets based on the different header information; and communicating said traffic packets to the selected ones of said plurality of contexts.”

The above quoted limitations are not described or suggested by the Admitted Prior Art or Ebrahim. While there are various uses for the invention as claimed, several such uses are discussed in Figures 3-4, paragraphs 2, 32, 35, and 38. Thus, while the invention is not limited to the uses discussed in these paragraphs, it should be understood that Prior Admitted Art and/or Ebrahim does not enable these uses and the above quoted limitations do.

Applicant's claims 2, 13, and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over the Admitted Prior Art and Weschler, U.S. Patent No. 6,154,777. Applicant does not admit Weschler is prior art and reserves the right to swear behind the reference at a later date.

Weschler discloses a method, system, and computer program for accessing server resources by a client according to control data (Weschler, Abstract). A context objection is associated with control data (Weschler, Col. 4, lines 25-30). Weschler's context object is an object used to authenticate and authorize client control data sent to a server (Weschler, Col. 5, lines 56-58).

Applicant respectfully submits that the Admitted Prior Art and Weschler do not teach or suggest Applicant's claims. Claims 2, 13, and 14 depend on claims 1 and 9. In claims 2, 13, and 14, Applicant claims a context "that operates as a virtual router in one network element." Because Weschler's context is directed to authenticating and authorizing a client and not operating as a virtual router in one network element as claimed, Weschler cannot teach or suggest a context "that operates as a virtual router in one network element" in relation to "selecting one of said plurality of contexts based on at least certain of the accessed header information" (claim 1) or "selecting different ones of said plurality of contexts for different ones of said traffic packets based on the different header information" (claim 9) as claimed. Neither does the Admitted Prior Art. Thus, Admitted Prior Art and Weschler do not teach or suggest the invention as claimed in claims 1 and 9 and claims 2, 13, and 14 that depend on them

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections have been overcome by the amendments and remarks, and that the Claims as amended are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejections be withdrawn and the Claims as amended be allowed.

Invitation for a telephone interview

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at 408-720-8300 if there remains any issue with allowance of this case.

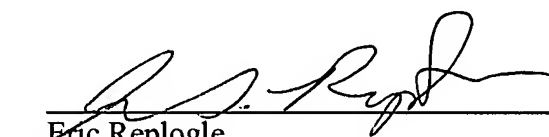
Charge our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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